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FLOOR DEBATE

March 5, 2002

LB 458

CLERK: Senator Schrock, AM2962. (Legislative Journal pages 815-821.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on that amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this amendment, AM2962, would eliminate the fee for corrections on water well registration. In conversation with the department, they have determined that there's been a lot of confusion, so there would be a two-year period where correction on well water fees would be eliminated. The bill was advanced out of committee unanimously. It is agreed to by the Natural Resources...Department of Natural Resources. And it would allow for corrections to be made on water well registrations for a period of two years with no fees. The current fees have been \$20. There's been a lot of corr...there's been a lot of misinformation about what should be charged and what shouldn't be charged. People trying to correct their well registration with some corrections, and so the department has decided that the best thing to do would be not to charge a fee for a period of two years. That's what this amendment does. Like I said, it was advanced unanimously by the Natural Resources Committee. I don't think this will be as controversial as the last issue we were talking about.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the amendment. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schrock, just a couple of questions, if I may. The fee was \$20, and what did the fee go for?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I suppose it would be for the...for the paperwork and the time that the Department of Natural Resources was spending on this. And they came to us and said, look, we've had a lot of confusion here, we don't need to charge...this is for corrections on water well registration. It's not for new water well registration. So, they...as they said, it would be simpler if, for a 24-month period, we didn't have a fee, and we can handle the corrections in-house without the fee.